

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

SEP 12 2006

REMARKS

The requested restriction requirement after three previous office actions on the merits and presumably a complete search of the subject matter is respectfully traversed. Nonetheless, as required, Applicant has elected the apparatus of claims 15 and 16. This will also include dependent claims 10, 11, and 12, which are dependent on claim 15. New claim 20, which is similar to claim 6, is also dependent on claim 15 and is also believed to be within the elected species.

New claims 21 and 22 are method claims that are substantially the same in scope as claims 15 and 16 and should be considered along with claims 15 and 16. The process employs the same type of receiving mechanism and supply mechanism as elected claims 15 and 16.

The requirement of an election at all, after three office actions on the merits, is respectfully traversed. Applicant has not introduced any new issues into the application during prosecution and responded in good faith to actions on the merits on all of the claims in this case. Since these claims have already been considered on the merits, it is urged that it would be appropriate to continue the consideration of all of the claims of this application without requiring the substantial additional expense of multiple patent applications that were never before considered to be different subject matter.

Accordingly, it is requested that all of the claims be considered in the present application,

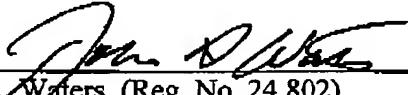
SEP 12 2006

but if all of the claims are not to be considered, it is requested that claims 10-12, 15, 16, and 20-22 be considered.

The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence and an accompanying petition for extension of time are being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, to the attention of Examiner Kovacs in Art Unit 3671 (571) 273-8300 on this twelfth day of September, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 9/12/06

By: 
John A. Waters (Reg. No. 24,802)
VARNUM, RIDDERING, SCHMIDT & HOWLETT
Bridgewater Place
333 Bridge Street
Post Office Box 352
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-0352
(616) 336-6000